

DISC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

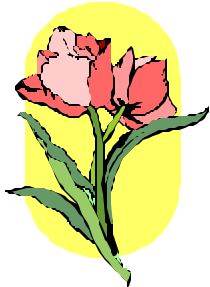
April 2002

An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

Bureau of Telecommunications- DISC Video Conferencing Facility By: Douglas Walsh



**April Showers
Bring
May Flowers**



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The DISC Videoconferencing Facility provides Video-conference support to all State of Kansas Agencies, and non-profit organizations within the State of Kansas. It was established in 1993 to meet the growing demand for a low cost means of providing a venue for all State of Kansas Agencies to use for conferencing, while avoiding the high cost and time involved in travel. The facility routinely provides conferencing support to agencies not only throughout the State of Kansas, but also throughout the United States. A number of conferences have also been conducted with organizations in Europe, Asia and Australia.

Through the years, the equipment used in the facility proved serviceable and largely dependable. However, 9-year-old equipment in the Information Technology world is a recipe for disaster. The equipment was not flexible enough to meet the growing demands of customers, the video and audio quality had

declined over the years, and it was no longer supported by maintenance vendors. The time had arrived for DISC to upgrade the facility to "state of the art".

In April 2002, the equipment was replaced. The installation included a new Video Coder/Decoder (Codec), monitors, microphones, audio mixer/amp, cameras, and VCR. The initial response was delight at the improved audio performance. The audio is now auto adjust gain. The system can now accept an audio voice that is literally talking at a whisper, or a loud voice. In both cases, the Distant End site saying the audio sounds great. A second immediate benefit was the high definition provided by the cameras, and shown by the monitors. The contrast is sharp with the colors well defined.

This equipment places DISC on the cutting edge of Video Conferencing.

The facility is prepared to move forward in support of state agencies to include Distance Learning and Telemedicine. This is truly an exciting time.

Come by and take a look around.



DISC NEWSLETTER

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Emergency Procedures

We are coming into the tornado and thunderstorm weather season soon, and we all need to know where to go in case of severe weather.

Should the tornado sirens go off, or Capitol Police use the intercom to announce severe weather, everyone needs to go to the nearest storm shelter of their building. In the Landon Building that would be the stairwells on the North and South ends of

the building, but not the stairwells on the East side of the building. The elevator lobbies, and the restrooms, and of course the basement are all severe weather shelters.

We also need to be aware of evacuation procedures for other types of emergencies like fires or bomb threats.

If an emergency is declared, DISC is to evacuate to the Docking Building

basement. NOT the sidewalk across Jackson Street. During the Oklahoma bombing of the Federal Building, cars were destroyed as far away as Harrison Street is from the Landon Building, by heat alone. During a bomb threat, the recommended evacuation distance is 1,000 feet and under cover. So the Docking Building is the minimum distance you would want to be away.



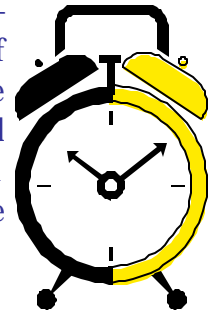
“Spring Ahead, Fall Back”

Did everyone remember to set their clocks ahead Saturday, April 6, before going to bed. (Except the night owls among you who were still up.) Anyone miss church or other scheduled event because you forgot?

Now it will really seem like Spring with longer daylight hours in the evening.

It is interesting to note that the Eastern time zone portion of Indiana, and Arizona (Except the Navajo Indian Reservation) do not observe daylight savings

time. The Navajo Nation observes daylight savings time because of its large size and location in three states.



Spring Is
In The
Air

Employee Trivia Answer

The DISC employee who comes from a family of 22 children is Tim Griffin in BDAS.

Tim said their family reunions can have more than 80 people. WOW!

Next month's question:

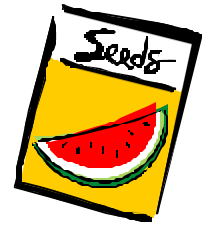
DISC has an employee who will have the most sick leave anyone has ever had in state employment, when he retires. Do you know who that employee is?





EMPLOYEE INFO

April Birthdays



Desi Gomez

Linda Smith

Patricia Miller

Todd Pettit

Dennis Sheets

Pam Rodecap

Kathy Kelley

Kelley Scott

Tony Matalone

Sara Johnson

Helen Gibbon



Happy Birthday !!!



New Employees WELCOME!

Todd
Standeford
BOCS
Started
March , 2002



Ryan
Kurtenbach
BOCS
Started
April 1, 2002



Deaths Please Accept Our Sincere Condolences

Cory Jager's Mother-in-Law

Births

Kendall Paige Marsh to Emily and Jason Marsh

Allison Jade Ortega to Dornella Ortega

Jim Parker's Retirement



Dorothy Eaton's Retirement Party



Bobbotte Polter (BOT) Retired In March

And so did

Ivan Hatch From BDAS

Congratulations To All Of Them!

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Meeting Our Customer's Needs



PROJECT TOPEKA

DISC and KITO recently sponsored a unique fundraiser for Project Topeka. This was a contest between the five Bureaus, billed as the "Penny Race for Project Topeka". The objective was to determine which Bureau could raise the most cash for Project Topeka, but only pennies counted as a plus for a Bureau. Any other coins or paper money counted as a minus for the Bureau.

This had been done before, but what really made this unique was incorporating some ideas from a popular television show and making the final week of the contest "WHO HAS THE WEAKEST CAN?". Starting with the can(s) of money for all the Bureaus, one can per day was eliminated as "THE WEAKEST CAN", based upon the net amount of money in the can.

Finally, it was down to two Bureaus, and BIS (Bureau of Information Systems) won the contest on Valentine's Day! This was a fun event that generated a considerable amount of enthusiasm and interest. The best part was raising a **total of \$703.75** for Project Topeka with what was a completely internal event! All together we collected 30,260 pennies, along with \$401.15 in other money,

Thank you DISC! You have improved the quality of life for some unfortunate people in Topeka!!!

Our own Hero in DISC



A couple weeks ago as some state employees were enjoying their lunch in the Docking State Office Building, one employee began choking. He was at the point of not being able to breath.

As other employees stood around watching, doing nothing, Tony Vargas did what he knew was right, and

started to assist the choking man. Tony was able to dislodge a few large pieces of food, and the man started breathing.

The employee has other health problems, and stopped breathing again just as the emergency personnel arrived.

Tony found out later that the employee is in

stable condition and improving. At first the medical facility said the man had swelling of the brain and other complications, but he pulled through.

Thank you Tony for being in the right place at the right time!